

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS AND ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ACCORD HAS FANNED SOME HOPE
AMONG PARIS PRESS OBSERVERS, BUT SEVERAL HEDGE IT FIRMLY AROUND WITH
WARNINGS THAT IT IS ONLY A FIRST STEP. AURORE, PESSIMISTIC, WARNS THAT

ISRAEL, RELYING MAINLY ON U.S. GUARANTEES, MAY HAVE ACCEPTED A
"MUNICH 1974". LE MONDE, OPTIMISTIC, FELT ACCORD IS LIKELY TO BE
"BEGINNING OF PEACE" AND WISHED IT SUCCESS. ATTENTION TO SECRETARY'S
PERSONAL PART IN ACCORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF U.S. INFLUENCE WITH
BOTH SIDES IS MIXED WITH SOME INCLINATION TO THINK U.S. DRAMATIZED
ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT FOR DOMESTIC REASONS. ONE OR TWO
PAPERS RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT SOVIET ROLE IN ACCORD. END SUMMARY.

1. "THIS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP," WROTE FIGARO'S FOREIGN NEWS CHIEF
(YVES CUAU). "THERE SHOULDN'T
BE TOO MANY ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE 'PEACE MOMENTUM' IN THE MIDDLE
EAST". LA NATION AGREED,

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SAYING QUESTION NOW IS TO OPEN TALKS "ON THE HEART OF THE MATTER,

NOT ONLY BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS, BUT BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND SYRIANS" AS WELL AS THE "VERY THORNY PALESTINIAN PROBLEM". BUT COMBAT THOUGHT THE LONG ROAD STILL TO BE RUN" OUGHT NOT TO DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT, FIRST OF ITS KIND SINCE ISRAEL CAME INTO EXISTENCE". TO BE SURE, SAID COMBAT, EACH SIDE VENTURED INTO THE ACCORD ONLY WITH "A THOUSAND PRECAUTIONS, AND WITH ANXIETY", AS WELL AS THE HOPE THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE PUBLICS WOULD ACCEPT THIS FIRST STEP. BUT EVEN WHILE THEY STILL MOURN THEIR DEAD, HOW CAN ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS NOT SAVOR THE PROGRESS MADE?"

2. AURORE WAS THE ONLY PURE SKEPTIC. UNDER HEADLINE "MUNICH 1974*", IT CHARGED THAT JERUSALEM HAD SIGNED "DISADVANTAGEOUS TEXT SO QUICKLY" SIMPLY BECAUSE SECRETARY PROVIDED GUARANTEES WORTH MORE IN ISRAELI EYES THAN CONCESSIONS THEY EXPECTED FROM SADAT. "DIRECT INVOLVEMENT" OF U.S., IN "GUARANTEEING EXISTENCE AND SECURITY" OF ISRAEL, IS ONLY REASON FOR ISRAELIS TO HOPE, AND TO TRY NOT TO WORRY

THAT THEY HAVE ACCEPTED A "SUCKER'S BARGAIN", WARNED AURORE.

3. LE MONDE'S OPTIMISM CAME THROUGH IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL HEADLINE: "HOPE". UNDERNEATH, PAPER ASSERTED THAT "THIS ISN'T PEACE, BUT IT'S PROBABLY THE BEGINNING," AND THAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS WEEK'S AGREEMENT "IS IMMENSE". IT IS FIRST OF ALL A "NEW AND BRILLIANT

SUCCESS FOR MR. KISSINGER", SAID LE MONDE, AND WHILE IT WAS RATHER ASTONISHING TO SEE SECRETARY "IN ROLE OF MEDIATOR BETWEEN LESS PRESTIGIOUS MEN", HE "UNDERSTOOD VERY QUICKLY THAT NOTHING WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN AGREEMENT ON THIS IDEA OF 'DISENGAGEMENT' THAT HE HAD CONCEIVED." DISAGREEING WITH TENDENCY ELSEWHERE (IN FRANCE- SOIR AND FIGARO) TO FEEL THAT EGYPT GOT BETTER OF THE DEAL. LE MONDE SPECULATED THAT IF SADAT HAS REALLY AGREED, AS REPORTED IN JERUSALEM, TO KEEP ONLY 7,000 MEN AND SOME 30 TANKS ON EAST BANK, HE "HAS MADE A SIZEABLE CONCESSION".

4. OTHER COMMENTATORS ALSO LINED UP IN RECOGNITION OF SECRETARY'S PERSONAL ROLE. CUAU IN FIGARO CALLED IT "MOST IMPRESSIVE THING" ABOUT ACCORD; LES ECHOS PROCLAIMED THAT "HENRY KISSINGER HAS WON HIS GAMBLE", ADDING THAT "THE AGREEMENT RESTS ABOVE ALL ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WITH BOTH SIDES". COMBAT SAID ACCORD IS "PERSONAL TRIUMPH" FOR SECRETARY, REINFORCING HIS "ALREADY BRILLIANT PRESTIGE", AND CONSECRATING U.S. ROLE AS "MEDIATOR OF ALL CONFLICTS". THE PEACE, SAID COMBAT, IS AN AMERICAN PEACE, BECAUSE THERE IS "NO ONE ELSE TO MAKE IT OR IMPOSE IT."

5. FRANCE SOIR TOOK SAME VIEW. "AMERICANS ARE THE BIG WINNERS", IT SAID, "AND PEACE, TOO". IT LIKENED ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREE-

MENT TO A SPANISH INN, WHERE "EACH GETS OUT OF IT WHAT HE PUTS IN". SYRIA IS NERVOUS, PAPER SAID, AND FEELS "ABANDONED". BUT WHEN ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS SAY THEY ARE SATISFIED, THIS IS OBVIOUSLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN SYRIAN BAD HUMOR."

6. ON ANOTHER ASPECT OF AGREEMENT -- THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS ANNOUNCED, FIGARO WAS INCLINED TO BE CRITICAL. IT SPOKE OF PRESIDENT NIXON "RUSHING TO THE OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE PERSONALLY, ON TELEVISION, THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT". AN "APPARENT SUCESS FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMACY" HAS ONCE AGAIN COME "AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT FOR A PRESIDENT INCREASINGLY CRITICIZED"

IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, FIGARO SAID. ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT THOUGHT THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TOO GOOD FOR PRESIDENT NIXON TO MISS CHANCE TO SHOW THAT "WATERGATE TURPITUTDES HAVE NOT PREVENTED HIM FROM FULFILLING HIS SELF-ASSIGNED TASK OF GREAT WORLD PEACEMAKER. NATURALLY, HE DID NOT MISS IT."

7. AT SAME TIME, FIGARO THOUGHT MOSCOW WOULD "BITTERLY RESENT" PRESIDENT'S "SHOWY EXPLOITATION" IN ANNOUNCING AGREEMENT, AND SAID "MOSCOW 'S SILENCE WAS REVEALING". COMBAT FOUND NO EXPLANATION FOR "PASSIVITY" OF MOSCOW, "SO QUICK TO ENCOURAGE THE ARAB OFFENSIVE IN OCTOBER, AND SO DISCREET WHEN IT COMES TO BRINGING SOME ORDER TO MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS."

8. TAKING A JAB AT JOBERT-TYPE INJUNCTIONS AGAINST U.S.-SOVIET CONDOMINIUM" WORLD AFFAIRS, COMMUNIST HUMANITE SAID "THIS FIRST RESULT SHOWS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JOINT EFFORTS BY SOVIET UNION AND UNITED STATES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS." .STONE

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